

they did not have and in many cases did not desire to have, filled Him with a yearning to bless these shepherdless throngs.

Philip Puzzled

Jesus turned to Philip and asked, Whence shall we buy bread that these may eat? He, himself, knew what he would do, but asked this to try the faith of the stupid but earnest Philip.

Philip astounded by the seeming impossibility of the thing, both on account of the small amount of money in the common purse of the disciples and also, perhaps, on account of the lack of that much bread in the small baker's stalls of Bethsaida, replied that \$17 worth of bread were not sufficient that each of the multitude might have even a little.

How unexpected must have been the wonderful miracles of Jesus!

Andrew's Suggestion

But when Philip was in the midst of his perplexity and before his slow mind had yet found a way out, the quick, practical mind of Andrew found a way out of the difficulty. The way was not entirely clear even to him, yet he offered the only suggestion he could think of. Andrew said to Christ, "There is a lad here that has five barley cakes and two small fishes." Then his practical mind seeing the contrast between the large multitude and the scanty supply, added, "But what are they among so many?"

This is the second time we have any notice of Andrew. The first was when he brought his brother Peter to Christ. This second glimpse of him shows him bringing a lad to Christ. And we shall see him yet again bringing some Greeks to Jesus, when they desired to see Him.

What a blessed record. No sermon of his is recorded in the Sacred Record but the undying splendor of his helpful deeds sheds a glory on his name and gives an insight into his character such as no sermon could, however eloquent.

A Lad's Part

Here is the only case in the Gospels where a lad is mentioned. And he is nameless. But the memory of his part in this miracle where thousands of hungry people were fed, has preserved the glory of his humble service for our inspiration.

There are some things commendable in his conduct.

1. He was only a boy, yet Jesus used him.
2. His very name is not preserved, but doubtless it is written in Heaven.
3. He had but little to bring to Christ, but he brought it.
4. The little he had Christ used to the feeding of a famishing multitude.

Don't despise the boys. Don't let the boys think that Christ can't use their humble services.

The world is dying for the lack of just such things as boys can give.

The People's Part

Jesus does not do the things we can do ourselves. Sam Jones says a man should pray, "Give us this day our daily bread," at the end of a hoe handle in order to have it answered. Hence, he ordered the disciples to make the people sit down on the grass of spring, which the sun had not yet scorched.

The people did so. People must obey Jesus, if they would receive his blessing. This is as true today as then, as true in spiritual affairs as in temporal, in regard to the ordinance of feet washing, as the that of the communion.

Jesus' Part

When the people had done their part, Jesus took the common barley cakes and the small fishes and looked up to heaven giving thanks for them. He then distributed them to the disciples. We know not how or when, but the loaves and fishes were multiplied. Even as we know not how from a single grain many dozens can be produced in the processes of nature.

Nature and the Supernatural

We call it natural when God thru the processes of nature produces from a single seed or grain many, many more. But, when the same God by the same power instantaneously multiplies grain, or bread, the products of grain, or fish, men call it miraculous and supernatural and often refuse to believe it. Is the one any more incredible than the other? In the one case familiarity with the fact of nature's processes causes us to forget the marvel thereof. Why should God be limited to one way of doing a thing? Natural and supernatural are but terms to accommodate our finite understanding. The natural is as marvelous as the supernatural, would we but see it.

The Disciple's Part

The disciples, as well as the lad, the people and Christ, had a part in this miracle. It was theirs to distribute the products of Christ's blessed power.

How beautiful a representation in symbol of the part of Christ's disciples in all ages in the feeding of a famishing world!

And five thousand men besides women and children ate to the full. Christ's supply is always ample. Phil. 4:19.

The Fragments

After the multitude was satisfied Jesus showed his wisdom by commanding the disciples to gather up the fragments that remain that nothing be lost. An abundance is no excuse for wastefulness. There is need for all that is supplied. This ought to teach those who have been entrusted with riches. It is given them of God not to waste but to use.

The fragments when gathered up were sent off probably, to feed poor people in the neighborhood. Twelve baskets were filled with these fragments.

The Effect on the People

This miracle made the men think that Je-

sus was that king that was to come into the world. They took him for a bread king. O, how often we miss the real intention of Christ's wonderful works. Christ wanted the people's hearts. Thus it too often is with men.

Lesson Applied

1. A multitude doesn't always mean that they believe the preacher.
2. There are Philips as well as Andrews among the disciples.
3. The Lord cares for the needs of people.
4. Andrew's way is the way of faith. He suggested the only way he could see and trusted Jesus to make it work.
5. Jesus can use lads today to supply the needs of a dying world.
6. It is not what we have, but how we use it that makes us disciples or servants.
7. It is a mighty mean man who will not thank God for the things he eats.
8. Use what you have. Trust Jesus to multiply it.
9. More is wasted now-a-days than is used. Time, talents, money. Much or little.
10. Jesus came not to be a bread king.
11. When you have to reach a man's heart thru his stomach it shows which dominates the man.

Church News

Hamlin, Kan.

After being compelled to disappoint the brethren at Hamlin a number of times, we finally arrived May 8, to help them in a meeting. Brother Elias Berkley met us at the train and took us to his hospitable home for the night. The next evening we began meeting with a small house. The farmers were busy with their corn planting as the frequent rains had retarded their work. We had good meetings each evening that week and Sunday. But the next week it seemed Kansas was about to lose her reputation for dry weather. It rained every day and almost every night until Saturday. Two nights we were entirely rained out. But the next week was lovely. When we preached our last sermon Thursday evening, May 24, a large and appreciative audience was present, as there had been all the week since the rain ceased.

Five souls had then made the "good confession." The interest was such that the church felt that they ought to keep the meeting going until Sunday evening, and Brother McFaden, their worthy and appreciated pastor, consented to continue it until Sunday evening and close with baptism. We shall allow him to complete the report. I want to say a word or two about Hamlin.

We were most pleasantly entertained at brother Levi Wallace's home, who with his good wife made our stay in Hamlin very pleasant, as did also all the brethren with whom we were able to visit.

This church at Hamlin was the result of